

**THEATER**

# COMEDY PET THEATER WITH A GOOD CAUSE

World famous pets to perform at the Palm

It's estimated that 5 million companion animals enter into animal shelters across the country each year. Many people make a commitment to these pets by adopting a shelter animal, giving it a chance at a happy, ball-chasing, napping-in-the-sun kind of life. World-famous performer Gregory Popovich goes one step further with his award-winning Popovich Comedy Pet Theater.

Popovich has been working with rescued cats and dogs — the performers in his shows — since the mid 1990s. Whether it's juggling, jumping, acrobatics or performing in pet-centered skits like Pet Fire Marshals, Dog Football, Dr. Doolittle and Funny Geese, the pets in his show offer a unique and funny night of entertainment for people of all ages.

The Popovich Comedy Pet Theatre is returning to Telluride for a pair of performances this weekend. The shows are Saturday and Sunday at 7 p.m. nightly at the Michael D. Palm Theatre.

Popovich and his extraordinary pet partners have been featured on the "Tonight Show," "Late Show with David Letterman," "America's Got Talent" and Discovery Channel's "Animal Planet."

For Popovich, the show is animated by a deep love of cats and dogs and a very serious, life-long commitment to helping rescued pets.

Popovich grew up as the child of Russian circus performers. In addition to their juggling and performing skills, his parents also were dog trainers. From a very young age, Popovich formed a special bond with animals, especially his mother's show dogs. At the age of 17, with superb juggling skills in place, Popovich traveled the world with the Moscow Circus and later the Ringling Brothers Barnum & Bailey Circus. After several years he settled in Las Vegas where he became the featured performer at the Circus Circus Hotel and Casino. During his show there, he fatefully incorporated the family kitten, Snowbird, in his

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# TELLURIDE DAILY PLANET

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**FRIDAY**

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**Don't quote me but...**  
"Come and meet us at the adoption day on Friday at the Telluride Thrift Shop on Main Street from 11 a.m.-3 p.m."  
— Two little balls of love, looking for a home

**Calendar**

**Friday**  
• Book Signing with Maribeth Clemente: 4-6 p.m., Telluride Naturals  
• Murder Mystery: 7 p.m., Palm Theatre  
• Iron Alley Launch Party: 7:30 p.m., The Steaming Bean  
• Shawn Calvin: 6:30 and 9 p.m., Sheridan Opera House  
• Full Moon Dance Party: 9 p.m., Fly Me to the Moon Saloon  
• Movie: "The Hobbit" (PG-13) 4:30 and 8 p.m., Nugget Theatre

**Saturday**  
• Zumba with Megan: 10 a.m., library  
• Alcoholics Anonymous: 10 a.m., Christ Presbyterian  
• Popovich Comedy Pet Theatre: 7 p.m., Palm Theatre  
• Marc Grossard: 8 p.m., Sheridan Opera House  
• Robin Davis & Friends: 9:30 p.m., The Steaming Bean  
• Movie: "The Hobbit" (PG-13) 4:30 and 8 p.m., Nugget Theatre

**Weather**

**Muse:** It's the last few days of hedonism before we have to stick to our New Year's resolutions for a month. Enjoy 'em.  
**Forecast:** Friday will be partly sunny with a high near 22 and a 50 percent chance of snow in the morning.

**IN ORBIT:**

Friday Focus: Music & Entertainment

A murder mystery

Coming Sunday: Business & Real Estate



This undated historic photo shows the Sheridan Opera House on North Oak Street. (Photo courtesy of the Sheridan Arts Foundation)

## Sheridan Opera House marks its 100th birthday

BY KATIE KLINGSPORN

On July 3, 1913, brothers J.A. and Arvid Segerberg opened the doors of the Segerberg Theater on North Oak Street in Telluride.

For a dusty mining town high in the mountains of Colorado, the opera house was a stately affair. With ornate stenciling, a richly painted olio curtain and plush seating, it was designed to offer a warm and luxurious refuge, and in the early years it hosted

### Vaudeville Variety night kicks off centennial celebration

socialite balls, wild vaudeville shows, orchestras and even boxing matches. In the decades since, the historic structure has ridden the crests and troughs of Telluride's economy, enduring through high years of active use, hand-offs be-

tween various owners and periods when the lights went out and the Sheridan Opera House, as it is now known, is a beloved community arts venue that hosts everything from children's plays to ski movies and Telluride Film Festival premieres. With its well-worn feel and intimate historic in town to see a concert or catch a play. And thanks to extensive

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## TMVOA compiles results from Dial-A-Ride survey

By COLLIN MCRANN

When the Mountain Village Town Council decided to cut funding to Dial-A-Ride this fall, questions lingered about how the general population of Mountain Village felt about the future of the free taxi service.

To gather information, the Telluride Mountain Village Owners Association put out a survey in October to gauge public opinion concerning Dial-A-Ride.

### Taxi service future still up in the air

Now, results from more than 300 people have been collected and board members by TMVOA they will take action to preserve the service.

The Town of Mountain Village will sever funding to Dial-A-Ride in April with the closure of the

ski resort. The town expects to see a savings of around \$550,000 annually by not funding the service, but due to its popularity, organizations like TMVOA have expressed interest in providing at least some funding or "I think that it's definitely a home owner benefit, and I think that there are several homeowners that would like to see this continue, but part of this is just going to be a funding issue," said

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## TELLURIDE DAILY PLANET TAKES HOME PRESS AWARDS

Colorado Press Association honors paper for local excellence

By COLLIN MCRANN

Every year newspapers across Colorado compete to better their coverage of the communities they serve, and through the Colorado Press Association, the best are recognized.

This year the Telluride Daily Planet took home 11 awards covering a broad range of categories in the 2012 Colorado Press Better Newspaper Contest. The Planet was chosen as the best in everything from advertisement designs, campaigns and layouts to news coverage. While there are a lot of newspapers in Colorado, especially in the Colorado small daily category, the staff of the paper was pleased to be recognized as one of the best.

"We're thrilled to receive this recognition from the Colorado Press Association," said the Planet's publisher Andrew Mirrington. "There are a lot of great newspapers in Colorado, and it's an honor to be able to bring these journalism awards home to Telluride."

The 11 awards were announced Dec. 13, but individual award places, best of show and general excellence awards won't be announced until Feb. 23 during the annual awards ceremony in Denver.

Out of the winners announced, former production manager John Glover took the most with seven awards. His awards range from New Best Cover Design for Guide to Best Advertising Campaign and Best Real-Estate Ad.

Former production assistant Nate Moore was awarded Best Black and White Ad and along-Advertising Special Section.

On the news side, both Editor Katie Klingsporn and former reporter Katharine Warren were honored for their coverage this past year.

Klingsporn got the Best Deadline News Reporting story for her coverage of an avalanche death in Bear Creek as well as Best Environmental Story for her story

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# Theater

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act. The audiences' response to the kitten act was consistently so great that Popovich began to think about building an entire routine based on performing cats. A friend encouraged Popovich to visit an animal shelter to look for cats that could become the additional performing pets. Upon his first visit to an animal shelter, Gregory was dismayed and stunned to see so many animals without a home or a loving family, animals that had so much potential, but had been discarded. He began to adopt and train cats from the shelter, and, when they were ready, introduce them as a part of his show.

"I have actually nicknamed my show 'A Second Chance' because that is what my kitty cats and dogs have been given, a second chance at life," says Popovich. "One of the main messages of my show is to bring attention for animal shelters, and the many homeless pets and rescue efforts out there."



A promotional image for the Popovich Comedy Pet Theater. [Courtesy image]

Popovich's goal is to educate people to the concept that every animal is unique and that people have great responsibility to their pets. Both professionally and personally, Popovich strongly supports and promotes adopting an animal from the shelter and increasing participation in the practice to spay/neuter cats and dogs. Through his show and per-

sonal endeavors, Popovich hopes to enlighten people and increase awareness of the important role that humans play — the huge difference that one caring person can make to the animal world.

With this in mind, the Palm is happy to announce The Wags and Menace Foundation as the presenting sponsor of the Popovich show, in partnership with Ridgway's Second Chance Humane Society. Cindy Lee, and her dog, Baxter (CEO) started The Wags and Menace foundation in order to "provide medical treatment for sick animals in Colorado, to fund organizations and activities that benefit animals, and to inspire, teach and motivate other individuals and organizations to achieve similar objectives." Lee will be presenting a check to Second Chance at the beginning of the Popovich performances.

For more information on either organization please visit [www.wagsandmenace.org](http://www.wagsandmenace.org) or [www.secondchancehumanesociety.org](http://www.secondchancehumanesociety.org).

Advance tickets are \$36 for adults, \$28 for students/children and can be purchased at [www.telluridepalm.com](http://www.telluridepalm.com). Tickets on the day of show will increase by \$5.